

To: Dr. Rasik Ravindra, Secretary General, 36th IGC
Prof. V.P. Dimri, President, 36th IGC



Re. Postponement and reschedule of the 36th IGC

February 27, 2020

Dear Dr. Ravindra,

Upon the information conveyed by you on behalf of the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) of 36th IGC on Feb 21, 2020, which informed that “...*Consequent upon the situation emerging out of spread of COVID-19, the Government of India, keeping in mind the safety of large number of international delegates, as also of domestic participants, has decided to delay the 36th IGC to a later date.*”, the IGC Committee (IGCC) immediately informed the relevant organizations and individuals, including the IUGS Executive Committee and National Delegates and other organization whom the postponement may affect.

Based on the request you conveyed further on Feb 24, 2020 for rescheduling the IGC in 9-14 November 2020 as first option and 16-21 November 2020 as the second option and in the same venue, the IGCC quickly conducted consultations with the IUGS EC and IUGS-IGC Joint Council members for their inputs and comments. With the suggestion of the IGCC, LOC timely conducted an opinion survey to a total of 7,235 registered participants.

The results reported by the LOC indicate that *among the 2,393 responses up to February 27, 2020, over 86% of the registered participants are willing to participate in the 36th International Geological Congress in Delhi, India as per the suggested schedule: November 09 – 14, 2020.*

The motion (“...*the IUGS Executive Committee agrees to postpone the 36th Geological Congress (36th IGC) to November as proposed by the LOC...*”) was electronically conducted by the IUGS EC. It passed with nine positive votes and one negative vote.

A survey conducted among Lead Delegates to IUGS-IGC Joint Council is likewise favorable.

On the basis of this information, the IGCC felt there has been adequate discussions on the issue, and a motion (“...*IGCC approves the proposal of rescheduling the 36th IGC in the new dates in November as proposed by the LOC of the 36th IGC...*”) was electronically conducted by the IGCC members. It was approved unanimously by the 7 members of the IGCC.

Therefore, I write on behalf of the IGCC to you, the LOC of 36th IGC, to implement the rescheduled IGC for the new dates in November. Although most members voted to support the rescheduling of the congress, extensive comments were

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suggested that should be treated as conditions for the approval. These comments and suggestions ought to be seriously considered by the LOC in preparation for the rescheduled IGC.

The main suggestions include urging the Government of India to provide necessary support so that the LOC can adequately subsidize and absorb the financial losses incurred by the postponement on the participants. It is essential for the LOC to closely work together with IUGS to rebuild the program and attract more participants to enhance the attendance of the congress. Other comments can be conveyed by the IGCC members orally. A new Memorandum of Understanding needs to be developed based on the existing one, which expires on March 8.

Finally, the IGCC appreciates the prompt measures and actions the LOC has been taking to handling the urgent matter of the postponement of the IGC. IGCC hopes, with the strong support from the Government of India and collective efforts of the LOC with other relevant organizations, the rescheduled 36th IGC to be a success.

Sincerely yours,



Prof. Qiuming Cheng
President, International Union of Geological Sciences
Co-Chair of IGCC



Prof. V.P. Dimri
President of the 36th IGC
Co-chair of IGCC

Cc:

Dr. Greg Botha, Secretary General 35th IGC, IGCC member
Prof. Richard Viljoen, President 35th IGC, IGCC member
Prof. Neil Williams, President 34th IGC, IGCC member
Prof. Stanley C. Finney, Secretary General of IUGS, IGCC member
Prof. Dr. Hiroshi Kitazato, Treasurer of IUGS, IGCC member
Dr. Rasik Ravindra, Secretary General 36th IGC, IGCC Secretary General
Dr. Dinesh Gupta, Co-President 36th IGC, IGCC Observer



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